



Read to Me News

From Your Public Library & Idaho's Read to Me Program

El Día de Los Niños / El Día de Los Libros

Children's Day/Book Day

Throughout Latin America, children are honored on a special day of the year. In most Latin American countries El Día de los Niños (Day of the Child) is celebrated on April 30th. This day is set aside to value and uplift children.

As a way of stressing the importance of bilingual literacy, several educational organizations have co-sponsored this initiative by linking the *El Día del Niños* celebration to books, libraries and reading; thus, the expanded title *Día de Los Niños/Día de Los Libros* (Day of the Children, Day of the Books).

Idaho is the first state in the nation to have an official Children's Day! It became effective in 2003 and is now a permanent observance. Many Idaho libraries and their community partners have been celebrating El Día de los Niños the past few years.

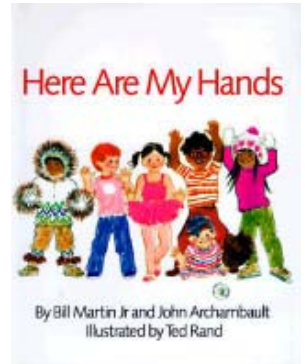
Children's days are celebrated in other nations, including Japan and Korea on May 5, Canada on November 20, Turkey on April 23 and Mexico on April 30. This is a day to celebrate the joys and wonders of childhood and the importance of books in our lives.

To find out more about El Día de Los Niños, see <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/initiatives/diadelosninos/index.cfm>



Book of the Month

Here Are My Hands,
by Bill Martin and John Archambault. Illustrated by Ted Rand.

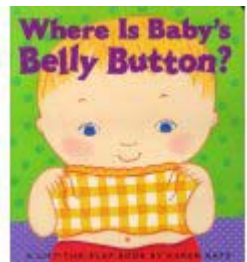


A delightfully simple book of rhymes about parts of the body: "Here is my head /for thinking and knowing. /Here is my nose /for smelling and blowing." The book includes hands, feet, head, nose, eyes, ears, knees, neck, cheeks, teeth, arm, and finally the "skin /that bundles me in." A colorful double-page picture of a child showing the part of the body featured accompanies each rhyme. These are expressive and simple, and include children of various races and both sexes. Even though the featured part is sometimes lost in the gutter of the book, this is an enjoyable offering that should find its way into toddler story hours, nursery schools, and many children's hands.

Here's a few more titles you and your child might enjoy:

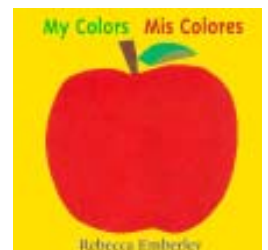
Toes, Ears, & Nose! A Lift-the-Flap Book, by Karen Katz

Where is Baby's Belly Button, by Karen Katz



My Numbers / Mis Numeros, by Rebecca Emberley

My Colors / Mis Colores, by Rebecca Emberley





"April 30th can become a day for remembering the power of words and books in the lives of our young people and for honoring all the languages spoken in the homes of this country. One in five children in this country comes from a home in which a language other than English is the home language. By honoring these languages, we celebrate our linguistic and cultural wealth."

- author Pat Mora

What you can do at home

Sing, talk, read, and encourage your child every day! When children are young, they learn by listening and talking with their parents, relatives, babysitters, and others.

If you and your child are more comfortable with Spanish, then sing, talk, and read with your child in Spanish. This will build your child's speaking, listening, and understanding skills. These skills will later help him or her speak and read English.

The gift of two languages

Knowing two languages is a gift you can give your child. Many children lose the ability to speak and read in Spanish when growing up in the United States. With encouragement from you, though, your child can become fluent in not just one language, but two!

If you don't know how to speak Spanish (or French or another language you think would be interesting), you can learn some vocabulary with books like *My Colors* or ask at the library if your community has a bilingual storyhour, language tapes or class.

Make Maracas!

You can make a simple maraca or noise shaker for your child to play with by taking two plastic cups and placing a handful of dry beans in them. Use duct tape to seal them together. Shake away!

Song of the Month

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands (clap clap)

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands (clap clap)

If you're happy and you know it, then your face will surely show it

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands. (clap clap)

If you're happy and you know it, stomp your feet (stomp stomp) [repeat other lines]

If you're happy and you know it, shout "Hurray!" (hoo-ray!) [repeat other lines]

If you're happy and you know it, do all three (clap-clap, stomp-stomp, hoo-ray!) [repeat]



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